(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) Government is required to amend the Patents Act, 1970 in accordance with its international obligations under the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights.

(b) and (c) Suggestions have been received from the National Working Group on Patent Laws concerning amendments to the patent law. The suggestions include aspects such as exclusions from patentability, compulsory licence, term of patent protection, reversal of burden of proof, etc.

Import of defective Tin Plates

554. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that unscrupulous importers are bringing in defective tim plates in the guise of tin free steel;

(b) if so, the total quantum of tin free steel plates imported during the past one year;

(c) whether the import of defective tin plates are being used for packaging of baby foods and other edibles;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to check such imports;

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) There is no entry in the ITC (HS) Classification of Export and Import Items by the name of 'Tin Free Stee'. Products of iron or non-alloy steel, not coated with tin can be imported under ITC code No. 72105000 and 72125000. Since these entries are for products not coated with tin, defective tin plates cannot be imported under these code numbers. Inquiries with some major Customs Houses have indicated that no seizure in respect of import of defective tin plates in the guise of tin free steel have taken place.

(c) to (e) There are no reports from States/Union Territory Governments regarding packaging of baby foods in tins made from defective tin plates. However, instances of packaging of edible oils in tins made from defective tin plats have been reported in the past. The State Governments have been alerted to keep a strict vigil on the market. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is separately taking steps to amend the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955, so as to provide for the use of Indian Standard grade tin for making the containers for food packaging.

W.T.O. agreement on Anti-Dumping Duties

555. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether W.T.O. Agreement on anti-dumping duties is being followed by all developed/under-developed countries of the world;

(b) if so, the names of those countries which are following W.T.O. Agreement and those who are not following;

(c) how many anti-dumping cases have been lodged/disposed off pending during the last three years before the anti-dumping authority; and

(d) whether Government have found decisions taken by the anti-dumping authority in favour of Indian Industry?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) All members of W.T.O. who implement anti-dumping duties, are required to follow the provisions and obligations under the W.T.O. Agreement in their respective national legislations.

(b) The Anti-Dumping Directorate under the Designated Authority has received various petitions since Jan. 1997 from the domestic industry for imposition of Anti-dumping duty. The details are given below:

(i) Petitions lodged	65
(ii) Cases where final duties have been imposed	19
(iii) Cases where preliminary duties imposed and Final duties are pending	13